

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 281426Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9215
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9303

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CSCE, UR
SUBJECT: CHARGES AGAINST YURIY ORLOV

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, IRINA ORLOVA, WIFE OF
JAILED CSCE OBSERVATION GROUP LEADER YURIY ORLOV, WAS
CALLED TO THE KGB JUNE 27. SHE WAS INFORMED THAT HER HUSBAND
WAS TO BE CHARGED UNDER ARTICLE 190-1 OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL
CODE (ARTICLE 190-1 CONCERNS DEFAMATION OF THE SOVIET
STATE AND CARRIES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF THREE YEARS IN
PRISON). MRS. ORLOV WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD NOTHING ABOUT THE
FATE OF OTHER CSCE GROUP MEMBERS NOW IN PRISON, I.E., ALEKSANDR
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GINZBURG, ABOUT WHOM NO INFORMATION IS KNOWN, AND ANATOLIY
SHCHARANSKIY, REPORTEDLY TO BE CHARGED UNDER ARTICLE 64 (TREASON).

2. COMMENT: AS IS USUAL IN SUCH CASES, THE SOVIET
SECURITY AUTHORITIES PROBABLY PROCEEDED FROM A
NUMBER OF DIFFERENT MOTIVES. WE HAD EXPECTED THAT
ORLOV WOULD BE CHARGED UNDER ARTICLE 70, ANTI-SOVIET

ACTIVITY, WHICH CARRIES A SENTENCE OF THREE TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT. THE LESSER CHARGE MAY HAVE RESULTED, AT LEAST IN PART, FROM WESTERN COMMENT AND ACTION IN FAVOR OF ORLOV.

3. WE ALSO ASSUME THAT THERE IS A CSCE-RELATED ASPECT. UNDER SOVIET LAW THE AUTHORITIES HAVE UP TO NINE MONTHS FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING A PERSON'S ARREST. ORLOV WAS ARRESTED IN FEBRUARY AND HIS TRIAL MUST TAKE PLACE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER, WHEN THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE WILL PRESUMABLY BE IN SESSION. THE SOVIETS MAY HOPE TO AVOID EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY IN BELGRADE BY SCHEDULING THE TRIAL BETWEEN THE PREPARATORY AND MAIN CONFERENCES.

4. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE AUTHORITIES WERE SOON TO RELEASE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE GINZBURG INVESTIGATION. WE HAVE HITHER-TO THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT HE WOULD BE ACCUSED OF FOREIGN CURRENCY MANIPULATION OR "SPECULATION" (HE WAS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SOLZHENITSYN FUNDS). GIVEN THE RELATIVELY MINOR OFFENSE WITH WHICH ORLOV IS TO BE CHARGED, THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES MAY ALSO CHOOSE TO TRY GINZBURG UNDER A LESSER CHARGE. THIS WOULD MAKE PARTICULAR SENSE SINCE GINZBURG'S HEALTH WOULD NOT ALLOW HIM TO LIVE THROUGH A LONG PRISON
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TERM. MATLOCK

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